

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145072 POSS DUPE
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JHMORTON:TP
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY
C:RHOPPER

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P 221909Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROUSAKIS, JOHN)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ATHENS OF JOHN ROUSAKIS, MAYOR OF SAVAN-
NAH.

REF: ATHENS 5704

1. MAYOR ROUSAKIS CONFIRMED TO EUR/SE THAT HE WILL DEPART
FOR ATHENS, JUNE 23, HEADING GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 140 PER-
SONS FROM SAVANNAH AREA. GROUP WILL SPEND FIRST FIVE DAYS
OF GREEK TOUR IN ATHENS.

2. ROUSAKIS INDICATED HE WOULD WELCOME PRIVATE, BRIEF MEET-
ING WITH EMBASSY OFFICIAL FOR RUNDOWN ON GREEK SITUATION.
EUR/SE SUGGESTED MAYOR CONTACT DCM MILLS ON ARRIVAL TO
ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING. MAYOR MADE NO OTHER REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE.

3. ROUSAKIS MET ON MAY 24 WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ TO DISCUSS
US-GREEK RELATIONS. THE COUNSELOR GAVE ROUSAKIS A BRIEF
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SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN,
IN PARTICULAR, THE CYPRUS DISPUTE AND THE AEGEAN CONTROVER-
SY. NIMETZ STRESSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO HAVE AN
EVEN HANDED POLICY TOWARD GREECE AND TURKEY, TO IMPROVE OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE, TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR RE-

LATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY AND TO BE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING A

SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

4. MAYOR ROUSAKIS EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONGRESS FOR INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. THE COUNSELOR STATED THAT IT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW THAT TURKEY REMAINS AN IMPORTANT NATO ALLY AND THAT IT IS IN THE US INTEREST AND ALSO IN THE INTEREST OF GREECE TO HAVE TURKEY TIED TO THE WEST. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE145072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHMORTON:TP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770223-0639
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770630/aaaaazf.tel
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Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 5704
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2068703
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO ATHENS OF JOHN ROUSAKIS, MAYOR OF SAVAN- NAH.
TAGS: OVIP, (ROUSAKIS, JOHN)
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/827e6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009